

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 16, and 32.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 31, 33 and 49 as indicated.

Sub C 1. (once amended) A method for generating a mosaic image with an appearance that approximates a target image by utilizing a plurality of source images and a computer, comprising the steps of:

loading the target image into the computer;
dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions,
each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image,
and

for each tile region:

B dividing the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

comparing source images to the tile region to produce a measurement of visual similarity, said comparing step including [analyzing a plurality of individual portions of each source image] comparing each sub-region of the tile region with a corresponding portion of each source image to produce the measurement of visual similarity;

selecting the source image with the highest measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and

positioning the selected source image in the mosaic image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

B² 1.3. (once amended) The method of claim [2] 1 including the further step of employing source images having one pixel per respective sub-region.

Sub C² 15. (once amended) An apparatus for generating a mosaic image with an appearance that approximates a target image by utilizing a plurality of source images, comprising:

A computer workstation that executes mosaic generation software being operative to divide the target image into a plurality of tile regions, each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image,

said mosaic generation software being further operative to operate upon each tile region to:

divide the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

compare a plurality of source image portions to the tile region to produce a measurement of visual similarity, the comparing including comparing each sub-region of the tile region with a corresponding portion of each source image to produce the measurement of visual similarity;

select the source image with the highest measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and

position the selected source image in the mosaic image at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

B⁴ 15 17. (once amended) The apparatus of claim [16] ¹⁴ 15 wherein the source image employed for comparison with the tile region has one pixel per respective sub-region.

Sub-C³ 31. (once amended) An article comprising a substrate having a mosaic image thereupon, said mosaic image having an appearance that approximates a target image through use of a plurality of source images, and which mosaic image is generated by a process executed with a computer comprising the steps of:

loading the target image into the computer;

dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions, each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image, and

B⁵ for each tile region:

dividing the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

comparing source images to the tile region to produce a measurement of visual similarity, said comparing step including [analyzing a plurality of individual portions of each source image] comparing each sub-region of the tile region with a corresponding portion of each source image to produce the measurement of visual similarity;

selecting the source image with the highest measurement of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and

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positioning the selected source image in the mosaic image
at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.

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30 28. (once amended) The article of claim [32] ²⁹ ~~31~~ wherein the process
includes the further step of employing source images having one
pixel per respective sub-region.

Sub C4

49. (once amended) A storage medium for use with a computer
comprising a substrate for storing at least one mosaic image having
an appearance that approximates a target image through use of a
plurality of source images, and which mosaic image is generated by
a process comprising the steps of:

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loading the target image into the computer;
dividing the target image into a plurality of tile regions,
each tile region representing a distinct locus of the target image,
and

for each tile region:

dividing the tile region into distinct sub-regions;

comparing source images to the tile region to produce a
measurement of visual similarity, said comparing step including
[analyzing a plurality of individual portions of each source image]
comparing each sub-region of the tile region with a corresponding
portion of each source image to produce the measurement of visual
similarity;

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selecting the source image with the highest measurement
of visual similarity to represent the tile region; and
positioning the selected source image in the mosaic image
at a locus corresponding to the locus of the tile region.
